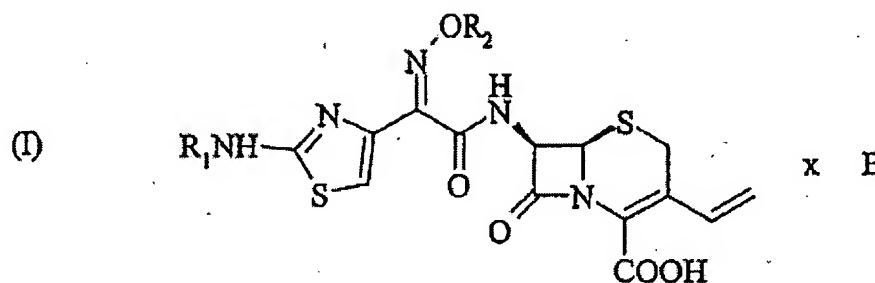


Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) Salts of formula (I)



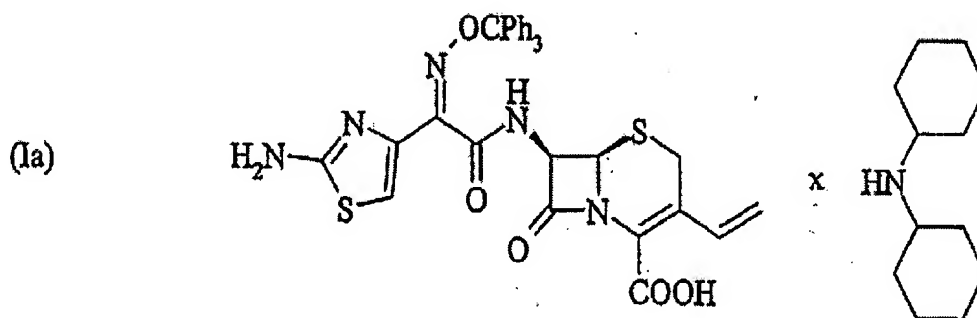
wherein

- R_1 is hydrogen or an amino-protecting group, selected from C_1 - C_6 acyl group optionally substituted with one or more chlorine or fluorine atoms, an alkyl- or aryl-oxycarbonyl group, or a trityl group wherein each benzene ring is optionally substituted with one or more methoxy and/or methyl groups;
- R_2 is a hydroxy-protecting group selected from a straight or branched C_1 - C_6 alkyl group, a benzyl, benzhydryl or trityl group wherein each benzene ring is optionally substituted with one or more methoxy, nitro and/or methyl groups;
- B is ammonia or an organic base selected from primary amines, secondary amines, tertiary amines, guanidine, amidines; solvates or adducts thereof.

2. (Original) Salts as claimed in claim 1 wherein R_1 is a formyl, tert-butoxycarbonyl, p-methoxybenzyloxycarbonyl, or trityl group.
3. (Previously Presented) Salts as claimed in claim 1 wherein R_2 is a tert-butyl, p-methoxybenzyl, 3,4-dimethoxybenzyl, benzhydryl, bis(p-methoxyphenyl)methyl and trityl group.
4. (Original) Salts as claimed in claim 1 wherein R_1 is hydrogen and R_2 is trityl.
5. (Previously Presented) Salts as claimed in claim 1 in which B is a primary amine selected from cyclohexylamine, 2-ethylhexylamine, benzylamine, α -methylbenzylamine and tert-octylamine.
6. (Previously Presented) Salts as claimed in claim 1 in which B is a secondary amine selected from diethylamine, morpholine, dicyclohexylamine, N,N-methylbenzylamine or N, N¹-dibenzylethylenediamine.
7. (Original) Salts as claimed in claim 6 wherein B is dicyclohexylamine.
8. (Previously Presented) Salts as claimed in claim 1 wherein B is a tertiary amine selected from triethylamine, tributylamine, triisooctylamine, ethyldiisopropylamine, N-methylmorpholine, pyridine, 2,6-lutidine or quinoline.
9. (Previously Presented) Salts as claimed in claim 1 wherein B is 1,1,3,3-tetramethylguanidine.

10. (Previously Presented) Salts as claimed in claim 1 wherein B is 1,5-diazabicyclo[4.3.0]non-5-ene (DBN) or 1,8-diazabicyclo[5.4.0]undec-7-ene (DBU).

11. (Original) Salts of formula (Ia)



12. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of salts as claimed in claim 1 for the preparation of cefdinir~~ A method of producing cefdinir, comprising providing a salt of claim 1; and removing the hydroxy-protecting R₂ group; wherein when R₁ is not hydrogen the amino protecting R₁ group is removed from the salt.